

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

1. The office action objects to claims 12-15 for inappropriate use of acryonyms. Applicant has replaced all acronyms with the full element name. No new matter has been introduced to the specification.
2. The office action has rejected claims 8-11, 13-14, 16 and 17 as being anticipated by Schmidt et al. (DE'504).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The office action identifies layer 30 as being the central stress relief layer, and layers 26 and 28 as the outer layers. Layer 30 is said to comprises coarse particles compared to the fine particles in layers 26 and 28.

However, in the claimed invention, the central stress relief layer is in between the two outer layers. Please see Figure 3, where the central stress relief layer is 104, while the outer layers are 100 and 102. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify this relative position of the central stress relief layer.

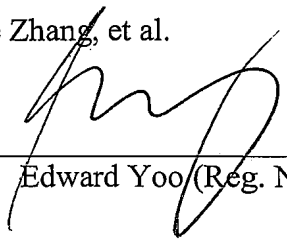
In contrast, in the Schmidt reference, the coarse particle layer (30) is not in between the two fine particle layers (26, 28). Therefore, the Schmidt reference does not disclose all the elements of claim 8 and thus cannot anticipate claim 8. Claims 9-22 depend from claim 8 and are also submitted to be novel and inventive.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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